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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,327	07/16/2008	Joaquim Henrique Teles	13156-00042-US1	4951
23416 7590 11/24/2008 CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP P O BOX 2207 WILMINGTON, DE 19899				
EXAMINER				
WITHERSPOON, SIKARL A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1621				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/24/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/573,327

Applicant(s)

TELES ET AL.

Examiner

Sikarl A. Witherspoon

Art Unit

1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/23/06
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckley (US 2,636,898) and Sanchez (US 5,321,176) in combination, and further in view of Uriarte (Studies in Surface Science and Catalysis 130).

The claims are drawn to a process for preparing cyclododecanone by reacting cyclododecene with dinitrogen monoxide (nitrous oxide), wherein the source of nitrous oxide is an off-gas of at least one industrial process. Further limitations include the nitrous oxide being in liquid form, the cyclododecene being a mixture of the cis and trans forms and are reacted in two stages, and the cyclododecene being obtained from the catalytic hydrogenation of a cyclododecatriene.

Buckley teaches a method by which an unsaturated compound, i.e. butene, cyclopentene, dodecene, acetylene, cyclooctene, etc. is oxidized by nitrous oxide to the corresponding carbonyl compound, i.e. ketone or aldehyde. The oxidation is conducted at a temperature generally between 200 and 350° C (col. 1, line 25 to col. 4).

Buckley does not expressly teach cyclododecene as the unsaturated compound to be oxidized by nitrous oxide; however, the reference does exemplify compounds such as cyclooctene, cyclopentene, cyclohexene and dodecene, and expressly teaches

that "almost any unsaturated compound may be useful". It therefore would have obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ the process taught by Buckley for making cyclododecanone which has value as an intermediate for making lactams and useful polyamides derived therefrom.

Buckley does not teach a method for making an unsaturated reactant such as cyclododecene; however, Sanchez teaches the hydrogenation of cyclododecatriene to cyclododecene using a ruthenium catalyst (example 1). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to look to a prior art recognized process for making cyclododecene, such as the process taught by Sanchez.

Buckley does not teach the source of the nitrous oxide; however, Uriarte teaches that nitrous oxide from an adipic acid water stream can be recovered and purified and used as an oxidizing agent. It therefore would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ such nitrous oxide in the oxidation reaction taught by Buckley in order to reduce process costs that may incur if using pure nitrous oxide.

While not expressly taught by the references, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art that cyclododecene in any reactant stream may be present in the cis and trans-forms. It also would have been obvious to oxidize each respective isomer in separate stages in order to minimize isomerization of one isomer to another in the presence of the nitrous oxide which would slow the reaction rate to the desired ketone compound.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sikarl A. Witherspoon whose telephone number is 571-272-0649. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Sullivan can be reached on 571-272-0779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sikarl A. Witherspoon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1621